

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES - AUGUST 17-28, 1977

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REFERENCE: SOFIA 0641

1. HAVE CONFERRED WITH GLENN G. DAVIES, USCSC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND NICHOLAS RODIS, FORMER USCSC PRESIDENT AND CURRENT VICE PRESIDENT OF FISU(INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS FEDERATION) WHO RETURNED THIS WEEK FROM FISU COUNCIL MEETING IN TEHERAN. RODIS TWICE VISITED SOFIA IN PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND ON ONE OCCASION DISCUSSED GAMES PLANS WITH JOHN KARCH. HE ACCOMPANIED NBC TV TEAM THERE IN LATE SEPTEMBER. NBC WAS INTERESTED IN TELEVIZING GAMES UNTIL THEY RECENTLY SIGNED CONTRACT FOR THE MOSCOW 1980 OLYMPICS. THEY HAVE NOW DETERMINED THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE AT SOFIA.

2. COSTS HAVE SKY ROCKETED AND THE ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE U.S. TEAM IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$400,000 (IN 1973
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AT MOSCOW IT WAS \$300,000). USCSC IS WORKING HARD TO RAISE SUFFICIENT FUNDING BUT WITHOUT TELEVISION IT WILL BE DIFFICULT.

3. USCSC IS DETERMINED TO PARTICIPATE TO THE FULLEST

EXTENT POSSIBLE. BULGARIA DESIRES U.S. PRESENCE

STRONGLY AND THEIR SPORTS LEADERS AT TEHERAN EVEN
SUGGESTED THE POSSIBILITY OF A BULGARIAN-FINANCED
CHARTER FLIGHT TO HELP U.S. TEAM(BUT THEY WERE UNCERTAIN
IF THIS WOULD BE LEGAL).

4. USCSC WILL SEND A U.S. TEAM TO THE GAMES. THE
SIZE OF THE TEAM, HOWEVER, WILL DEPEND UPON THE SUCCESS
OF ITS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED
OF USCSC PROGRESS.
VANCE

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